

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Radar Installations in Bulgaria

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1. Radar Station in Sofia:

- a. Located in a repaired and strengthened air raid shelter at the Ministry of War, this station was installed with Russian equipment between 12 December 1950 and 1 January 1951, since which time it has been in operating order. There had been some radar equipment there before, but it was inadequate and little used.
- b. There are no details available on the power and range of this installation. It is known, however that the station is manned by a crew of 30, Russians and Bulgarians, in charge of a Russian (probably an NKVD man). The Bulgarians, all carefully screened Communists, attended radar school in Russia for six months; Russian technicians who came to supervise installation of the equipment remained at the station. All members of the radar crew wear Bulgarian officers' uniforms.
- c. The air raid shelter housing the station is closely guarded by hand-picked men of the political security section of the War Ministry. Even the guards themselves are forbidden to go near the entrance of the shelter without permission of the officer in charge of security.

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- d. it appears that this station is the radar central of all installations throughout Bulgaria; but it is principally intended to protect Sofia from air raids and to direct the fire of the anti-aircraft batteries.
- e. The radar antennas for the Sofia station are located as follows:
- 1) On the Vitosha mountains near Sofia above the village of Kryazhevo located about seven miles from Sofia.
 - 2) On the roof of the barracks of the anti-aircraft regiment in Sofia.
 - 3) On the height known as the "Redoubt" near Sofia.
 - 4) On the high ground near the Seminary school in the suburbs of Sofia.

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- 5) On the height behind the summer camp of the Military Academy.
- 6) In the summer resort of Bankya near Sofia.
- f. A smaller radar station at the Bozhurishte airfield is connected to the radar central in Sofia as a part of the Sofia station.

2. Radar Station at Dolna Mitropoliya:

- a. This station was installed with Russian equipment between 5 and 27 December 1950 in an air raid shelter at the Dolna Mitropoliya airfield. It is manned by a mixed crew of Bulgarians and Russians and guarded by picked men. The radar personnel are not permitted to associate with others at the airfield nor to move about the field or leave without special permission.
- b. This unit protects Dolna Mitropoliya airfield, the city of Pleven, the Telish airfield, the city of Vidin including the ferry crossing the Danube, and the towns of Vratsa, Lom and Svishtov. Anti-aircraft batteries have been emplaced and connected to the station, whose main function is the direction of anti-aircraft fire.
- c. The antennas are located as follows:
 - 1) At the Telish airfield.
 - 2) In Skobelev Park in Pleven.

3. Radar Station at Lovech:

- a. This station was installed with Russian equipment between 28 December 1950 and 10 January 1951 in an underground steel and concrete shelter of a war plant in Lovech. Like all the others, this station is connected with radar central in Sofia. The range of this unit is said to be 50 to 60 kilometers.
- b. Personnel consists of 15 carefully screened Communist Bulgarians and five Russians and the station is guarded by special men brought from Sofia, supplemented by a local guard, whose personnel are not permitted near the shelter.
- c. It is intended that this station protect the war plant, the airfield at Lovech, and give air raid warnings to villages in the district.
- d. The locations of the antennas, mounted on towers, are as follows:
 - 1) Near the village of Izvor.
 - 2) On the roof of the main building of the war plant.
 - 3) On the height known as "Stratesh".
 - 4) On the Zilko Height.

4. Radar Station at Gorna Oryakhovitsa:

It is known that a station has been established here, presumably connected with radar central in Sofia, but details are lacking.

5. Radar Station at Varna:

- a. Located in a bunker in the Russian section of the Chaika airfield, this older station was re-equipped during September 1950.
- b. Previously manned only by Russians, station personnel now include Russians and Bulgarians wearing Bulgarian uniforms. This group seldom leaves the field and its members are rarely seen in the town. The station is guarded exclusively by Russians and no one is permitted in

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c. While it is a part of the Russian radar network for the port of Odessa, this unit is also connected with the Sofia radar central. It is used to detect ships, submarines and aircraft; to direct the fire of the coastal batteries and the anti-aircraft batteries; and to assist ships and aircraft in foul weather.

d. The antennas are located as follows:

- 1) On the height known as "Galatea" on the south side of Varna Bay.
- 2) Around Evksinograd just outside of Varna.

6. Radar Station at Burgas:

This station was installed during December 1950 and is known to be similar to the installation at Varna as respects personnel and functions; but details are lacking.

7. Radar Station at Plovdiv:

- a. The Russian equipment for this station was brought through the port of Burgas and installed in a special steel and concrete shelter at the Graf Ignatiev airfield, between 10 December 1950 and 5 January 1951.
- b. A mixed group of Russians and Bulgarians in Bulgarian uniforms man the station and act as security guards, keeping all except radar personnel away from the shelter.
- c. Connected with both radar central in Sofia and the station at Burgas, this is considered the most important station in Bulgaria. It serves generally to protect Kazanluk, Karlovo, Sopot and Kalofer (Kalofer also has some newly established radar installations of its own); but the main purpose of this network is protection of Graf Ignatiev airfield and the highly important war plant at Kazanluk. All anti-aircraft batteries in this area are radar controlled.
- d. Antennas are located as follows:
 - 1) On the heights above and around Plovdiv.
 - 2) On the Graf Ignatiev airfield.
 - 3) In the direction of Pazardzhik.

8. Radar Station at Smolyan:

There are rumors of a station at Smolyan with antennas on the heights near Dervishka Mogila and along the Turkish border.

9. Radar Station at Pirdop:

A radar unit is reported at Pirdop, but the details are lacking. It is indicated, however, that the Pirdop station is not part of the installations along the Greek border.

10. Radar Equipment:

- a. The equipment used in Bulgaria is of the latest Soviet manufacture; and all sets are standardized. Circular type antennas are used.
- b. It is believed that each station has extra radar sets which can be sent wherever needed with trained crews.

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